

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1671

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, CH, JA, TW, US

SUBJECT: "REFERENCE NEWS" REPORTING ON MIYAZAWA-MANSFIELD TALK

REF: PEKING 1656

1. BEGIN INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. THE JULY 23 AND 24 ISSUES OF THE RESTRICTED-CIRCULATION DAILY TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI (REFERENCE NEWS) BOTH FEATURE U.S. AND JAPANESE PRESS COVERAGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA'S WARNING TO SEN. MANSFIELD ON THE DESTABILIZING CONSEQUENCES OF "DRAMATIC" U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION. FROM THE TONE AND THRUST OF THESE NEWS REPORTS, THE CHINESE RAADER WOULD PROBABLY CONCLUDE THAT: (1) MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS WERE COLDLY RECEIVED IN JAPAN AND WERE MOTIVATED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS; AND (2) AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE PERPLEXED BY THE STATEMENT. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. THE LEAD ARTICLE IN THE JULY 24 ISSUE--HEADLINED "MIYAZAWA'S POURING COLD WATER ON U.S.-PRC DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION IS A STATEMENT SCHEMING TO CREATE TWO CHINAS"--INCORPORATES EXCERPTS FROM: (1) A JCP (LEFT) ORGAN HIGHLIGHTING GOJ DUPLICITY AND LINKING THE MIYAZAWA STATEMENT TO THE EARLIER GOJ SUPPORT OF "KMT RUNNING DOG SPECIAL AGENTS" IN CONNECTION
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WITH THE YOKOHAMA ARREST OF "PATRIOTIC OVERSEAS CHINESE";

(2) A KYODO JULY 22 REPORT NOTING AMERICAN "SURPRISE"; AND
(3) A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE DATED JULY 21 OBSERVING
THAT PRC-JAPAN RELATIONS HAD SUNK TO THEIR LOWEST POINT SINCE
1972 AND SPECULATING THAT MIYAZAWA'S REMARK HAD BEEN STIMULATED
BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ANOTHER JAPANESE PRESS PIECE IN
THE JULY 24 ISSUE CONDEMNS AS "COLD WAR LOGIC" THE THINKING OF
UNIDENTIFIED JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT "IF THE
U.S. UNILATERALLY ABROGATES THE U.S.-TAIWAN MUTUAL DEFENSE
TREATY, THE RESULT WOULD BE DESTRUCTION OF THE ASIAN POWER
BALANCE."

3. ARTICLES IN THE JULY 23 REFERENCE NEWS PROVIDED INTER ALIA
THE FOLLOWING INSIGHTS TO CHINESE READERS:

--"U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR TAIWAN"
HAD STOPPED OFF IN JAPAN EARLIER TO HEAR GOJ ATTITUDES;
MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS THEREFORE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN TOO
SURPRISING.

--THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION CANNOT MENTION ABANDONMENT OF
TAIWAN AT PRESENT "BECAUSE OF THE CHALLENGE FROM REAGAN."

--PRIME MINISTER MIKI HAD INFORMED THE DIET THAT MIYAZAWA'S
REMARKS DID NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN JAPANESE POLICY
AND THAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS IN FUTURE SHOULD AVOID PUBLICIZING
GOJ VIEWS ON THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES.

4. OTHER COVERAGE OF U.S. NEWS IN THE TWO ISSUES INCLUDED:

--REPORTING ON THE VIKING MARS LANDING;

--AFL-CIO ENDORSEMENT OF JIMMY CARTER'S CANDIDACY;

--A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE ON "THE CHALLENGE
FACED BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY" (THIS ARTICLE WILL DOUBTLESS
BAFFLE THE UNWITTING READER SINCE AN APPARENT MISPRINT HAS
"ONLY" 80 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE WILLING TO
IDENTIFY ITSELF AS REPUBLICAN);

--SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD'S APPEAL TO CONGRESS TO SUPPORT
A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE WHILE ELIMINATING WASTE;
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--A JULY 9 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE NOTING THAT U.S.
MILITARY POLICY AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE PLANNED FAR IN
ADVANCE AND THEREFORE LARGELY INDEPENDENT OF THE PRESIDENT.

5. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND HONG KONG.
DEAN

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